

The glimpses of local character which ancient history affords us suggest that peculiar traits of disposition have been curiously persistent in certain localities. although the race of the inhabitants has been greatly changed. The Athenian character, for instance, has been closely preserved by a people which retains very few drops of Athenian blood.

We find then. that certain human traits are so closely associated with peculiarities of environment as to justify us in assuming that there is a causal connection between them. In many cases we may be quite unable to apprehend the links of this connection—to understand why certain facts of environment should involve certain physical and mental features. But it is permissible to draw inferences from occurrences which are in themselves unintelligible: science, has indeed won its victories by the use of such reasoning. The effects of environment may be distinguished according as they have modified physical features, traits of character, or habits of mind and conduct. The two former have become hereditary and innate in the race which displays them. We may hardly deny that strong developments of energy or quietism, of susceptibility to passion, of artistic sensibility and practical foresight, have become as congenitally inherent in races of mankind as peculiarities of feature and

complexion.

Habits of mind and conduct, on the other hand, do not appear to have become ingrained in the race : they require to be acquired afresh by the individual. Such are modesty, decency, and the civic virtues. A European nurtured by savages would not revolt against the practices of savagery. In distinguishing between a trait of character and